

Minutes approved Sept. 20, 2013

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Minutes for Wednesday, June 19, 2013 3.00 pm, Diana Romer Room, Town Hall

Present: Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Alan Powell, Nonny Burack, Tracy-Lee Boutilier, Melissa Perot .
Absent: Patricia Holland. Also Attending: Town Moderator Jim Pistrang.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm and welcomed **Town Moderator** Jim Pistrang .

Guidelines for Presentations. Jim asked that these guidelines be simplified and reformatted to prioritize information. Another suggestion was to add a section on Documents in the Guidelines requiring the Article # it refers to, a date and preferably a name, although the latter is not required.

Auditorium. Mary asked about providing chairs at the back of the auditorium for handicapped or physically challenged Town Meeting members. Jim thought this was possible if limited in number. There is no longer a table outside the entry door for material not related to Town Meeting. It was suggested that Ron Bohonowicz be asked to provide a table for this.

AV and Tech issues. Jim recommended that technical issues for town meetings be reviewed and a check list developed that any tech help could follow when setting up the auditorium. A new projector with stronger light has been ordered and it is expected to make it easier for projected materials to be read.

Town Meeting process. Suggestions from TMCC to the Moderator:

- More minority reports especially on contentious issues.
- The 2 minutes extra time that was given to board and committee presenters should be offered to all presenters “without objection”, and the words explained to mean “*unless* any one objects”.
- Wait to call the question when there are still many hands up.
- Tellers have blank tally cards for those who cannot find them at the last minute.
- In response to Jim's wish to bring electronic voting to Town Meeting, members mentioned that a few years back it was defeated. Nonny expressed her discomfort with the tally votes as did Melissa and said they could support electronic voting if there were no names recorded.
- Announce voting results in detail, for, against, and uncounted.
- Perception of unfairness by some TM members with regard to timing allowed and being called on.

Bus Tour. Jim reported that he had 4 complaints about advocating and said that there should be guidelines to keep the experience non-partisan. Alan restated his view, supported by others, that the Warrant Review is to tell people, the Bus Tour to show people, and the Precinct Meetings to discuss both sides of the Issue.

Electronic Voting. Jim reported he had done some preliminary research and is keen to go forward. He had timed standing and tally votes at TM and said that electronically it would have taken a total of 30 minutes for all 10 tally votes and 5 standing votes against the 2 ½ hours it took under the present method of voting. Time saving is cost saving and an accountable vote is worth the expense. His process would be to appoint a committee and let them work out the details. TMCC had questions about identifying how TM members vote, training, IT support and changes to By-laws. Mary Streeter, Adrienne Terrizzi and Rob Crowner had done research on this a few years ago. There are pressures in favor of doing away with Town Meeting and efficiency may be key to its survival. Mary requested Jim send us his survey thus far.

Jim left and the meeting continued.

Dependent Care Form. In response to a question about how to request reimbursement for dependent care during sessions, Carol had emailed a sample receipt form including instructions to be sent to Town Manager's office for consideration.

N. Amherst Precinct Meeting. The bill for the Meeting House room that wasn't available for use has not been submitted yet. The committee was unanimous in saying it should not be paid and Pat will be asked to make the contact with the church to clear this off the books.

Summer work. Zoning Primer. Clear up Historic districts. Alan will send recolored copy to the Planning Board. They will be asked if Historic Districts should be included.

Review, Revision and Addition to Guidelines for Presentations. Nonny, Mary and Alan agreed to work on this.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 7, 3.00 – 5.00

Minutes: **April 22nd**, approved

May 17th, approved as amended. Mary will retype and post.

June 6th, approved as amended.

Documents available: Agenda

Minutes of April 22nd

Minutes of May 17th

Minutes of June 6th

Submitted by Melissa Perot